



**COMMUNITY SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION**  
City of New Haven  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510



**John DeStefano, Jr.**  
Mayor

**Kica Matos**  
Administrator

**STATEMENT OF KICA MATOS, Community Services Administrator, City of New Haven Before the Judiciary Committee**

**IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**

My name is Kica Matos. I am Director of Community Services for the City of New Haven. I am grateful for the opportunity to present testimony today in support of Connecticut Legal Services Programs.

This testimony serves as support for New Haven Legal Assistance, a community institution that provides invaluable services to thousands of New Haven residents. Due to a drop in revenue from IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts), they have lost 40% of their funding for the fiscal year 2009, and their attorneys have made numerous concessions in order to keep their doors open. They have taken 20% pay cuts, almost completely lost their pensions and have accepted greatly reduced benefits. Many of their talented attorneys and staff were forced to seek employment elsewhere.

The work of New Haven Legal Assistance is invaluable at the local, state and national levels. Not only does the office provide direct representation to thousands of clients in legal and administrative proceedings, but the impact of their work has been felt nationally as well, as evidenced by their recent success in convincing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to suspend evictions of tenants of foreclosed-on landlords. New Haven Legal Assistance has also taken a leadership role in supporting and guiding the city's newly launched re-entry initiative, aimed at assisting ex-offenders reintegrate into their communities.

Our office often receives calls and walk-ins from New Haven residents with a variety of problems, such as domestic violence victims, immigrants who need help completing naturalization papers, and parents with child custody concerns. We have always referred these clients to New Haven Legal Assistance. It is important for us to know that we can continue to make referrals and that these vulnerable residents will continue to be provided with quality legal representation.

I strongly urge you to consider their request for funding so that our clients and residents can continue to have a place to go for affordable legal assistance.

**NEW HAVEN** IT ALL HAPPENS HERE

Phone (203) 946-7909 Fax (203) 946-7908 Tty/tdd/tt (203) 946-8582